An Appraisal of Personal Religion.

Txt. Rev.3:11"Hold fast that thou hast that no man take thy crown."

INTRO. Dr. McLeod's appraisal of the Church. An appropraite Lenten theme and a good follow-up to Dr. McCleods message,"An Appraisal of Personal Religion."
Text: read.

Tho commended for some strength and for ~~not~~ (a ~~denying~~ keeping X's word, the Ch at Philadalelphi was warned to hold fast and watch. Perhaps ~~we~~ a little reflection will cause us to realize that we of today are in need of the same message. "Hold fast that thou hast." "Let no man take thy crown." Watch! Hold it fast.

I. THE IS ALWAYS DANGER OF LOAING ONE'S CROWN.

1. True of earthly crowns.
a, The case of ex-queen,Liloukalani, of Hawaii. The dethroned queen at Washington, made the butt of much gossip, jest and scoff.
One writer:"There does not seem to anything more utter out of place in the world than andethrone king or queen. While they are on the throne there are plenty to do them reverence, and t' their power for good or ill is very great; but when the crown is taken from their heads their situation is pitiful indeed."
A dethroned Liloukalani should emphasize th words of the text:Hold fast that thou hast, let no man take thy crown."
A most pitiable person is a Xn who has lost his crown, in whom the Chrst no longer reigns.

B. Crowns, because valuable, have often been stolen.
1. Col. Blood's attempt to steal the crown of Chas. II. Finally to Deputy-Keeper of Crown Jewels.

I. B. 2. French crown jewels stolen in 1792. After death of Louis VI. the Crown jewels, valued at 500,000 lbs., put into safe keeping. When stolen all seemed to be lost, but an anominous letter revealed the hiding place of the loot, practically all was recovered.

3. The crown of Holland stolen in 1829. It was disposed of by piecemeal, some of it being disposed of in this country. Bit by bit the pieces were recovered.

4. The Crown of England has been put in pawn at four different times. In 1386 Richard II pawned the crown for 2000 lbs to replenish his depleted treasury.

He did'nt do so well as his father, Edward III, who sold his crown in pawn to the Bishop of Winchester for 13,500 lbs.

Henry III + IV Other instances might be mentioned, but suffice it to point out that if earthly crowns should be well guarded and not treated lightly, how much more should our spiritual crowns, our wreathes of reward for right and godly living, should be guarded and cared for, for they are easily lost or taken from us Thru neglect, or wrong purposes and desires, or evil companionships, or the pressure of severe circumstance.

II. But let us consider why we should hold fast to our personal religion and ever keep a firm grip upon it.

1. Because holding on, holding fast, in itself, is a cardinal element to any success and also a Christian virtue.

a—Read poem

PERSISTENCE

Hang on! cling on! No matter what they say.
Push on! sing on! Things will come your way;
Sitting down and whining never helps a bit;
Smile in the face of danger, and hang to your grit.

Don't give up hoping when the ship goes down;
Grab a spar or something—just refuse to drown;
Don't think you're dying just because you're hit;
Best way to get there is by keeping up your grit.

Folks die too easy—they sort of fade away;
Make a little error and give up in dismay;
Kind of man that's needed is the man of ready wit
To laugh at pain and trouble, and keep his grit.

—L. E. Thayer.

b. The little tot slipping on the icy walk. To passer-by, "He fall down, hurt some; me try some more."

c. The man digging for oil, trying again.

The man who drove tunnel mile long to get gold, cost $100,000. then quit. Another company drove the tunnel a yard further and found the gold. And so the gold of life may be only a yard away; thousands never find it because they stopt a yard short of it. That is why holding on, persistence is a Xn virtue and a prime principl of success.

II. 2. We Xns should hold on because our crown is worth so much.

a. Your faith.

b. Your Xn ideal of life.

c. Your sense of the true.

d. Your Xn hope.

e. 3. Your Xn appreciation of the good and the beautiful.

6.

II.2.f. Your Xn character, your only lasting estate you bequeath to theworld when you die, and the only thing you take with you when you leave the world.

Let Me Keep Lent

By Elizabeth Badley Read

LET me keep Lent,
Let me not kneel and pray,
Forego some trifle every day,
Fast . . . and take Sacrament . . .
And then
Lend tongue to slander, hold ancient grudge, deny
The very Lord Whom I would glorify.

Let me keep Lent,
Let my heart grow in grace,
Let Thy light shine till my illumined face
Shall be a testament
Read by all men
That Hate is buried, Self, crucified—new-born
The spirit that shall rise on Easter morn.

—*Good Housekeeping, New York.*